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L Press Guidance
June 7, 2007

Report on CIA Detention Program

Question:

Have you reviewed the "ghost detainees" report released today by the coalition of human rights groups, including Amnesty International, in which 39 terror suspects are identified as possibly being secretly imprisoned by US authorities? What is the U.S. reaction to the report? Does the USG know the status of the individuals identified in the report?

Answer:

- We are reviewing the report now.
- We refer you to the CIA for comment.

If pressed: Hasn't the USG already conceded that it had some of these people in its custody, as reflected in the 9/11 Report? Why can't you tell us what happened to these people?

- As we said before, we're not in a position to confirm or deny specific intelligence activities.
- We do not transfer persons where we believe it is more likely than not that the person would be tortured.

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Background

Six NGOs, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have issued a report listing the names and details of 39 people alleged to have been held in some point by the United States in secret sites, and whose current whereabouts are unknown. The report suggests that the USG uses "proxy detention" by foreign governments to empty its secret sites and alleges that the CIA has swept up low-level detainees and family members, including young children, of detainees. The CIA responded to this report by stating that there are many myths about its program; it re-affirmed that it does not use torture or transfer individuals where it is more likely than not that they will face torture; and emphasized that the CIA program complies with U.S. law.

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